

tions: it was also obvious, that in such instances antiphlogistic treatment was injurious. For fourteen years preceding this patient's death, the bruit de soufflet was never absent.—*Dublin Journ. of Med. Sci.*

MATERIA MEDICA AND GENERAL THERAPEUTICS.

11. *On the employment of a new Vegetable Monesia, in Medicine.* By Dr. G. J. MARTIN ST. ANGE.—A vegetable substance called *monesia*, has lately been imported from South America, in the form of hard thick cakes, weighing about five hundred grammes (9215 grains.) These loaves, which are flattened, and have paper of a yellow colour adhering to them, are composed of the extract, prepared in the country, from the bark of a tree whose botanical name is not known. M. Bernard Derosne, the druggist who introduced it, informs me that some travellers call the monesia bark *goharem*, and others *buranhem*. But what is of more importance is, that the naturalists who have examined it think that the tree which furnishes it is a *chrysophyllum*.

The extract is of a deep brown, and very friable; when broken it looks like a well-roasted cacao nut. It is entirely soluble in water, and its taste, which is at first sugary like liquorice, soon becomes astringent, and leaves behind a well-marked and lasting acid taste, which is particularly felt in the tonsils.

The bark of the monesia is smooth and grayish, like that of the plane tree, with this difference, however, that it is much thicker, that its fracture is imbricated, and that its sweet taste forms a strong contrast with the bitterness of the thin laminae which are detached from the plane.

The chemical analysis of the bark of the monesia, and of the imported extract, according to MM. Bernard Derosne and O'Henry, has demonstrated the presence of the following soluble principles:—1. Chlorophylle; 2. vegetable wax; 3. a fatty and crystallizable matter; 4. glycyrrhizine; 5. an acid and somewhat bitter substance; 6. a little tannin; 7. an unexamined organic acid; 8. a red colouring matter, resembling that of cinchona; 9. phosphates of lime, with organic acids.

The pharmaceutical preparations which have been made with this substance are—1. an aqueous extract; 2. syrup, containing thirty centigrammes ($5\frac{1}{2}$ grains) in the ounce; 3. a hydro-alcoholic tincture, containing two grammes (37 grains) per ounce; 4. chocolate, containing thirty centigrammes ($5\frac{1}{2}$ grains) in each cake weighing three decagrammes (7 drachms, 49 grains); 5. an ointment, containing an eighth part of its weight of extract; 6. monesine, being the acrid substance mentioned in the analysis.

The extract contains about eight per cent. of glycyrrhizine, and twenty per cent. of acrid matter.

The following accounts of monesia are already in existence:—1. A manuscript memoir, which is in the hands of the commissioners appointed by the Academy of Medicine. 2. A synoptical table, giving the analysis, some pharmaceutical preparations, and the medicinal preparations of monesia. 3. A very minute summary of these two papers, entitled, "Account of Monesia." 4. An article inserted in the *Bulletin Thérapeutique*.

I will now give a succinct account of the facts which have been published, before mentioning the results which I have obtained myself.

The medical cases in the synoptic table have been drawn up by several physicians in Paris; they give the nature of the disease, the sex, the profession, the age, and the constitution of the patient; the mode of treatment, the duration of the disease, the termination; and lastly, the remarks suggested by each method of treatment.

M. Alquié, professor of internal pathology at the Val-de-Grâce, found—

1. That of forty-two soldiers attacked with diarrhœa of different degrees of severity, thirty-six were cured in twelve days; twenty-four by the extract of monesia given in pills, in the dose of from eighty centigrammes to a gramme

(14½ to 18½ grains) a day; and twelve by the tincture, administered as a clyster, in the dose of eight grammes (147½ grains) in two hundred and fifty grammes (4607½ grains) of bran water.

2. That in two cases of menorrhagia, the extract and the tincture of monesia given internally soon calmed the pain, and stopped the uterine discharge.

3. That in four women attacked with profuse leucorrhœa, the extract of monesia given internally, and the diluted tincture injected into the vagina, were beneficial.

4. That in two cases of hæmoptysis, where bleeding, ligature of the limbs, and ordinary astringents, had been employed without advantage, the extract of monesia succeeded completely; and that several chronic cases of bronchorrhœa were benefitted by the syrup of monesia, which was sometimes combined with opium.

M. Baron cites—1. A very remarkable case of chronic inflammation of the vagina, of a syphilitic kind. No advantage had attended the previous use of baths, local bleedings, emollient and astringent injections, the nitrate of silver; a year later the diluted supernitrate of mercury, sulphureous baths, leeches, and the repeated application of blisters and sinapisms, were equally useless. In spite of these remedies the discharge from the vagina became more abundant. Injections were then used containing thirty grammes (552 grains and 9-10ths) of the extract of monesia in a hundred and fifty grammes (2764½ grains) of water. In eight days the discharge was much diminished, and in three weeks the patient was cured. The discharge returned in a month, but again yielded to the same injection.

2. A case of leucorrhœa. The discharge was copious, of a yellowish white colour, and accompanied with pains in the groins and lumbar regions; baths, leeches, and injection of mallow water and laudanum, had produced no benefit. Injections of monesia, in the proportion of thirty grammes (552 grains and 9-10ths) to a hundred grammes (3317½ grains) of water, were employed once a day, and the patient was cured in a fortnight.

3. Several cases of diarrhœa, which resisted the means generally used, were cured by the extract of monesia given internally, and clysters containing the tincture, in different proportions.

M. Buchez has employed the extract of monesia, and has remarked, that it delayed the progress of caries in the teeth, and that, when combined with opium, it often soothed the pain more effectually than the opium alone. He recommends the employment of the tincture to keep the gums in a healthy state.

M. Daynac speaks of the good effects he has obtained from the preparations of monesia (the syrup, lozenges, and paste) in several cases of the chronic catarrh of the old, in dyspeptic persons, and in the third stage of phthisis. He also cites remarkable cases of scrofulous engorgement, much benefitted by the use of the tincture of monesia, in the dose of eight grammes (147 1-2 grains) daily, continued for a greater or less time. Lastly, the extract of monesia in pills, in the dose of from sixty to ninety centigrammes (11 to 16 1-2 grains) has been very serviceable in uterine discharges.

M. Laurand speaks of a well-marked case of scurvy which he cured with monesia. The patient had had frequent epistaxis, which had several times required the nostrils to be plugged. He was made to inspire acidulated water by the nostrils, containing thirty grammes (552 grains and 9-10ths) of the tincture to a pound of water. This stopped the hemorrhage; but when the same thing had been done with acidulated water not containing monesia, it had not succeeded. The patient also took from a gramme to a gramme and a half (18 1-2 to 27½ grains) internally every day. The same physician has ascertained the efficacy of monesia in a great variety of circumstances, particularly in gangrenous eschars on the sacrum.

M. Manec has employed the different preparations of monesia with success:—1. In a man who, for six years, had had a large serpiginous ulcer in the bend of the groin, which had resisted every kind of treatment, and which rapidly improved under the use of monesia ointment.

2. In a great number of aged women labouring under diarrhœa, and in persons affected with chronic bronchitis.

M. Monod has furnished some very interesting cases; some of ulcers of the nose, and others of affections of the intestinal canal. The ulcers were dressed with the powdered extract, and cured in a few days. In the other cases the extract given in pills to the amount of from sixty to a hundred and twenty centigrammes (11 to 22 grains) daily, was perfectly successful.

M. Payen, who has employed monesia in a great number of cases, has seen a patient in whom leucorrhœa was considerably increased by this medicine, administered two different times; the monesia was then tried as an injection, and the discharge, which had hitherto resisted every remedy, disappeared, and did not return. The same practitioner cites two cases of uterine hemorrhage, where the patients were obliged to keep their bed for a fortnight at each menstrual period, and in which the monesia brought back the discharge to its healthy standard. Lastly, M. Payen has succeeded in cicatrizing an ulcer in the lower jaw, which, for ten months, had resisted every kind of treatment, both internal and external; and in healing ulcerated chilblains, by means of the ointment and the powdered extract of monesia.

Thus we see that monesia has been employed both externally and internally. It has been frequently administered during the chronic stage of bronchitis, usually alone, but sometimes combined with opium, and in the greatest number of cases it has seemed to act advantageously upon the disease, the expectoration and respiration being rendered more easy.

In many cases where pulmonary hemorrhage was prolonged, having resisted various and generally efficacious remedies, the extract of monesia has stopped the spitting of blood.

In weakness of the stomach monesia has a favourable influence on digestion, and secondarily on nutrition. This medicine has also been very beneficial in chronic enteritis; it has chiefly succeeded against diarrhœa, from whatever cause it arose.

The efficacy of monesia taken internally has been less marked in leucorrhœa than in diarrhœa, yet it has been useful in the majority of patients who have taken it; but injections have been more advantageous.

In every case of uterine hemorrhage where monesia has been given, it has succeeded in moderating and suppressing the discharge more readily than the other remedies which had been previously used.

Monesia has also been of great advantage in scorbutic and scrofulous affections, and has always benefitted ulcers of a bad character, whether the ointment, or the pure extract powdered, or the acrid substance contained in it, has been employed.

Such is the compendium of the cases hitherto published, with the exception of four by M. Forget, which are the basis of the article that he has published in the *Bulletin Thérapeutique*, and which, as he says himself, neither tell for nor against monesia.

We may say, therefore, generally, that monesia shows its maximum of power in diseases of the digestive organs, in hemoptysis, uterine hemorrhage, and ulcers of the skin, or of the mucous membranes, at their origin. A remarkable point in this remedy is, that although it is gifted with energetic powers, and has acted upon the tonsils or upon ulcerations as an active stimulant, it has never irritated the stomach as tonics, properly called, often do. In order to form a due estimate of its relative activity, we must not forget that it has always been employed after the exhibition of other remedies.

I now come to my own cases, the general results of which may be stated as follows:—

Monesia, when exhibited internally, in the dose of from 75 to 125 centigrammes (14 to 23 grains) of the extract daily, for eight or ten days, whether in the form of pill, tincture, or syrup, has an immediate effect upon the digestive passages, and quickens the action of the stomach in a very remarkable manner. If the dose of the remedy is pushed to four grammes (74 grains) of

the extract daily, for fifteen or twenty days, the appetite increases, but the patients sometimes experience a feeling of heat in the epigastrium: tenesmus and obstinate constipation may also come on; hence its action upon the digestive tube should be moderated by diminishing the dose according to the effect produced, and administering emollient or laxative clysters, as may be required.

Monesia ointment may be employed externally, upon sores, in every case, but with more or less success, according to circumstances: thus I have seen it succeed in large and excessively painful ulcers, arising from the action of blisters, in sores produced by burns, in varicose ulcers and old wounds; in a word, whenever the sore is painful, and depends on a merely local affection. When this is not the case, and the ulcer is kept up by syphilis, scrofula, scurvy, or cancer, it is impossible to effect a permanent cure by merely applying the monesia ointment, washing the sores with the tincture, or sprinkling them with the extract or acrid principle contained in it. Yet, by employing these different preparations in a proper manner, we may hope to modify the sores, and even to cure them for a time. Generally speaking, the ointment, when applied to a sore, calms the local pain; the tincture thus used, produces a sensation of heat, which ceases immediately; the powdered extract more or less excites the sore, and the acrid principle in powder, when well prepared, has a special activity greater than caustic: hence it is a powerful remedy against fungous or atonic ulcers of a bad appearance; but as soon as these sores become painful, and especially when they are covered with a whitish pellicle, the use of the acrid principle should be discontinued; for it is usually this pellicle which, by preserving the surface of the sore from contact with the air, and perhaps by becoming partly organized, produces cicatrization.

I have said expressly, that it is impossible to obtain a lasting cure of syphilitic or cancerous sores by the mere external use of this remedy; in such cases, therefore, we must have recourse to a specific treatment capable of acting on the system. I have found that in order to effect the cure of scrofulous ulcers, the monesia must be employed internally, for five-and-twenty or forty days, and even longer, according to the case; and this in large doses, such as four or five grammes (74 or 92 grains) of the extract daily, in the form of pill, tincture, or syrup. In this way I have succeeded in curing or benefiting several scrofulous patients. Here follow two remarkable examples.—

CASE I.—A young man of 17, a printer, born of very healthy parents, came to see me in February, 1839, to have the little finger of his left hand amputated. On looking at the diseased parts, I saw it was a scrofulous affection of only eight months' standing. The first phalanx was much swelled, the soft parts covering it were livid, and there were three fistulous openings in the skin; two corresponding to the dorsal part of the phalanx, and the third to its palmar surface. They were surrounded with callous vegetations of a brownish colour, and communicated with one another by means of subcutaneous fistulous passages. By introducing a blunt probe into the sores, it was easy to reach the bone of the finger, and to ascertain the detachment of the skin and the caries of a portion of the phalanx. The suppurate was serous, yellowish, of a faint odour, and contained some flakes of a substance which seemed carious. Strong pressure of the diseased tissues occasioned hardly any pain. On the back of the hand and the left elbow there was also a swelling of the skin and of the subjacent parts, looking like the little finger. The swelling and livid patch extended from the elbow to the inside of the bend of the arm; its centre was ulcerated, and covered with a thick crust, which, according to the patient's report, was renewed every two or three days.

I began by sprinkling the acrid principle of monesia on the small sores of the finger. After some day's dressing, the swelling of the soft parts began to diminish, and at the end of about twenty days the fistulous openings entirely closed. The diseased tissues at the back of the hand then ulcerated, and the acrid principle being employed as above-mentioned, in a few days a cure was effected. There remained only the sore upon the elbow, which had been purposely dressed with cerate. It continued to suppurate, and to be covered from time to time with a fresh crust.

The patient was in this state when I presented him to Dr. Bally, who had been commissioned by the Academy to report on the effects of monesia. The affection appeared to him to be evidently scrofulous, and the result obtained to be very satisfactory. The disease, however, soon reappeared; the fistula of the finger began to suppurate again; there was swelling and livid redness of the soft parts, with engorgement and induration of the back of the hand; the sore on the elbow became larger and deeper. The patient now entered the hospital of St. Louis, where he had internal medicines as well as fumigations, sulphurous baths, &c. In a month he came out, with the diseased parts in a worse state than ever. I now prescribed the internal use of monesia—namely, twelve pills, each containing 20 centigrammes (3 1-2 grains,) and two spoonfuls of the tincture. The sores were dressed with common cerate. Under this treatment the patient was cured in thirty-five days. Nevertheless he continued to take five pills a-day till the fiftieth day.

Since July, the diseased parts have been constantly improving, and a lasting cure may be hoped for. It is right to state, that in this case the preparations of monesia did not cause tenesmus or constipation, although the patient did not employ any purgative; the only thing he complained of was too much appetite.

CASE II.—M.—, *etat.* 40, who had always enjoyed perfect health, came to France two years ago, and perceived, in the month of April, 1839, that he had an indolent tumor in the left inguinal region. Several physicians of the capital were consulted, and they ascertained that it was a swelling of one of the superficial lymphatic glands, situated in the bend of the groin. On the 21st of the same month, I was also consulted by the patient. The diagnosis was not difficult, but the point was to know how the tumor would turn out. My prognosis was favourable, like that of all the other physicians, excepting M. Lisfranc, who thought that the swelling of the gland, though slight, depended on a general affection. On the 2d of May the groin continued to swell, and from that time all the other glands of that part, as well as of the left iliac fossa, swelled considerably; and this was soon the case with those of the opposite side. Twenty pages would scarcely suffice to tell all that was prescribed by the physicians, and patiently submitted to by M. —. No remedy was of any use, except for a short time; and I therefore proposed monesia, in the dose of 150 centigrammes (28 grains) of the extract a-day. The patient at this time was extremely weak, ate but little, and was feverish every day. In a week, digestion had improved; there was a sensible increase of strength, and no fever. The sores were dressed with the monesia ointment. In consequence of these results, I tried to augment the dose of the medicine, and, besides the extract, the patient took two spoonfuls of the tincture, and from four to six of syrup in an infusion of hops. As to the sores, which obviously grew better, the same dressing was continued morning and evening, and every thing promised a speedy cure, when constipation and a most painful tenesmus came on, which obliged us to suspend the treatment. In a few days the sores became larger and larger, fungous, and of a bad appearance.

The dressing was then changed—extract of monesia in powder and the tincture being employed; but these remedies were almost as useless as a host of others which were successively tried. It then seemed clear to me that the internal use of monesia had alone produced the improvement, and its use was accordingly resumed, taking care to make laxatives a part of the treatment. For this purpose the patient had two glasses of Enghien water every morning, and an emollient clyster. In a fortnight, the good effects of the monesia were again perceived; and this was the more to be attributed to its internal use, as the dressing had been performed with simple cerate.

At present, the swelled glands of the groin are softening and disappearing, without any suppuration. Those of the iliac fossa are diminishing in size; the sores have cicatrized, and the disease, far from attacking the lymphatic glands of the other parts of the body, as is commonly the case, is localized, and is much lessened. The patient eats with a good appetite, sleeps well, and takes exercise three hours a day, which makes us hope for a fortunate termination of the disease.

Another result which I have obtained from the use of monesia, and which has been observed by other practitioners likewise, is its action upon the uterus in cases of metrorrhagia. I will give two instances:—

CASE III.—Madame—, of a plethoric constitution, was attacked, after the catamenial period, with a flooding, which obliged her to keep her bed and seek for advice. After having employed cold drinks, ligatures on the limbs, cupping-glasses, and other revulsives, without success, I made the patient take five monesia pills, each containing 20 centigrammes (3 grains and 3-5ths.) The next morning she was very weak; the skin burning, the pulse scarcely perceptible, the face pale, and the eyes sunken. She had shivering fits from time to time, a sensation of weight in the loins, transient colic pains, and headache, with sleepiness; and what was more, the hemorrhage did not diminish. I then prescribed twelve pills of extract of monesia to be taken every hour. The discharge stopped the same day, and never returned.

CASE IV.—Madame—, aged 20, who had been married six months, had frequent pains in the loins; and in a few days a flooding came on, which obliged her to keep her bed. The hemorrhage increased, as soon as the patient got up; there was no pain in the abdomen, and no constipation; the pulse was weak and irregular, and from 76 to 80 in a minute. Revulsives, cold and acidulated drinks, clysters of cold water, and compresses dipped in iced water and applied to the thighs, had no effect. The ergot of rye was then employed, but as this excited vomiting, it was discontinued, and pills of the extract of monesia were ordered to be taken every hour, until an effect was produced. After fourteen pills the hemorrhage ceased. The patient then took cold broth at intervals, and in spite of the lightness of this food, the discharge returned in the evening with violence, and again ceased after the exhibition of ten monesia pills.

On the following day, the dose of the medicine was diminished to 75 centigrammes (14 grains), and in six days the patient was quite well.

Quite lately, I employed the acrid principle in powder, in the dose of 15 centigrammes (2 grains and 7-10ths), taken in a prune; it was to stop a uterine hemorrhage, which had suddenly come on during the night; the discharge ceased the same day. But as this case stands alone, additional facts are necessary to prove the power of the acrid principle under such circumstances. In every case, monesia acts in a remarkable manner upon the uterus, when it is not in its natural state. This new medicine may be used in different ways, and it acts on different organs, particularly when they require to be strengthened without too much excitement.

This is confirmed by the following passages from M. Buchez:—

"I have tried the extract of monesia," says this skilful practitioner, "in different affections of the mouth, particularly in inflammation of the gums, and uniformly with advantage. Its application produced a good effect, by almost instantaneously soothing the pain, which often accompanies inflammation. This mode of treatment I have found very successful in the scorbutic swelling of diseased gums, and it has removed affections which had previously resisted other remedies. When caries of the teeth is attended with pain, the application of monesia is sure to remove it in a few moments."

When all the ascertained facts are compared together, one is struck by the very peculiar tonic action of monesia on every organ. As its powers have been tried in more than four hundred cases, we may be allowed to consider monesia as a very useful remedy, under several circumstances, particularly scrofulous affections and uterine hemorrhage. Hence the art of healing was made a real acquisition; nor is it to be imagined that this tonic has any analogy with those already known, quite lately a tannin ointment, and monesia ointment were tried and compared with each other, and the advantage was on the side of the latter. Moreover, it is clear that every medicine acts in its own way, and that there can not be two whose special effects are the same. Well-informed practitioners know that one purgative can not be indifferently substituted for another; that every narcotic has not, in the same degree, the power of soothing

and producing sleep; that the action of the various tonics is also very different; and that the general effects of medicines are like the difference of faces; many resemble each other at the first glance, but none can sustain an exact comparison.—*Lond. Med. Gaz.* from *Gazette Médicale de Paris*.

12. *Tannin in Hemoptysis*.—The superiority of pure tannin over the substances which contain it in greater or less proportions, was pointed out three or four years since by M. Cavarra. (See this Journal for Nov. 1837, p. 223.)

It appears from the *Journal de Med. et de Chirurg. Prat.* (Nov. 1839,) that this substance has more recently been employed in hemoptysis by Dr. AMEÉE LATOUR, who highly extols its efficacy in that disease. In one case in which other astringents had failed, it perfectly succeeded; and in three others it was equally successful, but in these last the hemorrhage was slight.

He employs the following formula: R.—Tannin. puræ, gr. iv; Pulv. gum Arab. gr. xvi; Syr. simp. q. s. Misce.—Ft. pilul. No. viij. Four to be taken daily (one at a dose, at intervals of three hours) for two days. This article occasions constipation which must be removed by enemata.

13. *Utility of Nux Vomica in various forms of Paralysis*.—M. PETREQUIN, one of the surgeons of the Hotel Dieu, at Lyons, has recorded his experience of this powerful drug, in an elaborate and very practical paper in a recent number of the *Gazette Médicale de Paris*.

He employs it both internally and externally. He prefers the alcoholic extract—prepared with two pounds six ounces of the grated nuts, and 22 pints of alcohol—to the strychnine for internal use; beginning with the eighth part of a grain for a dose, and gradually increasing it to two, three, or even five grains in the course of the day.

For external use the strychnine is, as a matter of course, to be preferred.

M. Petrequin alludes to the frequent failure of the endermic use of strychnine, owing to the vesicated surface, to which it is applied, becoming covered with a layer of coagulable lymph. In consequence of this, the strychnine is not duly absorbed. This layer of lymph should be removed as well as possible at each application; but, as the vesicated surface becomes daily less and less absorbent, the dose of the strychnine must be proportionably increased. The mode which M. Petrequin recommends, is to sprinkle a third or fourth of a grain of the alkaloid, mixed with two or three grains of the powdered nux vomica itself, on the surface, which has been vesicated by means of the *pommade ammoniacale*.

Along with the use of the strychnine in this way, he employs a tincture of the nux vomica—prepared with four ounces of it in powder and one litre of brandy as an embrocation to and around the palsied parts.

M. Petrequin has related several cases of, more or less complete, *hemiplegia*, which were either quite cured or greatly relieved by the use of the nux vomica.

In all of them, the muscles of the palsied parts became affected with sudden involuntary twitchings, and the patients experienced electric-like shocks in different limbs, before the complete recovery of their lost powers.

Four cases of *paraplegia* also, in which the strychnos seemed to act most beneficially, are recorded.

In the first of these cases, the paralysis was the result of a severe injury of the back from a heavy log of wood falling upon it. For three months the patient had been confined to bed, when M. Petrequin first visited him. Although the sensibility and motility of the inferior limbs had begun to return, and the general health of the patient to be somewhat re-established, he was still so helpless that he could neither stand nor even support himself sitting in bed.—There was also a complete incontinence* of the urine, so that it was continually escaping drop by drop; and, to add to his distress, an ulcer had formed over the sacrum.

* For the first three weeks after the accident, there was a retention of the urine, so that it required to be drawn off several times in the course of the twenty-four hours: it was very sedimentary, and occasionally almost as white as milk.